

*Most Transparency Ever in Earmark Process*

Washington, DC—U.S. Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23), today put forth his Appropriations requests for his Congressional district for the small portion of the federal budget known as Congressional earmarks, in which members of Congress submit proposals they feel would benefit taxpayers in their district and in the United States. Members of Congress typically only receive a very small percentage of the earmarks which they request. This year is the first year in which members of Congress will publicly post each of their requests in an effort at increased transparency for taxpayers.

“I am proud to serve on the committee that has created the most transparent process in the history of Congress for funding requests for members of Congress,” said Rodriguez, a member of the House Appropriations Committee. “I want to keep working to root out waste, fraud, and abuse, and work for projects that will benefit taxpayers.”

Every member of Congress is required by House rules to post earmark requests on their website on April 3, 2009, the day the requests are due. The website listings include an explanation of what the projects would do for taxpayers and the reasons for investing these federal funds in the district. As also required, Congressman Rodriguez sent the committee a letter certifying that he will not benefit financially from any earmarks.

Additionally, when the Appropriations bills come up for votes, they will be accompanied by a list identifying each earmark and which member requested it. These tables will be made publicly available ahead of the votes on the bills.

[Click here](#) to view Rodriguez's website where he has made his requests public.